

REMARKS

Claims 28-29, 34, 36 and 53-55 are all the claims pending in the application.

Present Claims Comply 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 28 -29, 34, 36 and 53 - 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the specification as originally filed fails to teach the limitation “in the absence of supporting cells” and asserts that this limitation is new matter.

Specifically, the Examiner states that, while Applicant points to pages 8-9 for support, the pages relied on actually require the presence of endothelial cells. Thus, the method has not been disclosed to be practiced in the absence of supporting cells.

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

The use of the endothelial cells, which the Examiner refers to, is only one “example,” especially just “for further use” and is not required in the present invention. *See* Page 8, lines 4-18.

Moreover, at page 9, lines 1-18, the specification discloses various acellular biological matrices in the absence of supporting cells, on which the recited adult tissue-specific cells can grow. Moreover, the Examples disclose growing various tissue-specific cells in the absence of supporting cells. Page 15, lines 10-27, page 16, lines 13-36, and page 18, lines 36-31.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the original specification provides ample support for the limitation “in the absence of supporting cells” and that the limitation is not new matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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